



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for

February  
2024

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

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**PASTORAL TEAM**

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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# Flowers

<p>*****</p> <p>Sunday 4th February 2024</p> <p>Vacant</p>
<p>*****</p> <p>Sunday 11th February 2024</p> <p>Jackie White</p> <p>In Memory of Josephine Arnold</p>
<p>*****</p> <p>Sunday 18th February 2024</p> <p>Joyce &amp; Greta</p> <p>To Memory of Mum, Dad &amp; Raymond</p>
<p>*****</p> <p>Sunday 25th February 2024</p> <p>Diane Williamson &amp; David Ogden</p> <p>In Memory of Bob &amp; Deanne</p>
<p>*****</p> <p>Flowers lovingly arranged by:-</p> <p>4th Margaret Salt; 11th Margaret Shore;</p> <p>18th Joyce Ashworth; 25th Anne Dawson.</p> <p>*****</p>

Should you know of someone for whom Church flowers would be a source of comfort and solace please have a word with Helen or Joyce



*Editor: With Valentine's Day in mind... just for fun, why not ask your children (and grandchildren) the same questions, and to report back any interesting answers!*



**Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff – the way children see it...**

**How can a stranger tell if two people are married?**

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

– Derrick, age 8

**What do you think your mum and dad have in common?**

Both don't want any more kids. – Lori, age 8

**What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?**

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. – Craig, age 9

# NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



Flowers by  
Margaret Salt, Margaret Shore,  
Joyce Ashworth and Anne Dawson

## FEBRUARY

Thur	01	17.00	Monthly Afternoon Tea—Hostess: Helen Illingworth
		18.30	Women's League Meeting followed by Games Evening!
Sun	04	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Fri	09	11.00	Meeting in preparation for Clover St 50yr Celebrations.
Sat	10	19.00	Film Night (see pg 6)
Sun	11	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service leader TBA
Mon	12	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Tue	13	19.30	GC meeting via Zoom
Sun	18	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	25	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev Helen Mills

On Friday 26th January, a working party met at church to discuss plans and preparations for our special celebrations in recognition of 50 years at our building at Clover Street.

*PLEASE!  
NOTE*

In that time, there have been many changes both to the building itself and to the congregation.

There wasn't time to compile an article on any decisions for this issue, but look for highlights in the March edition—Ed

## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

**Sylvia Palmer** remains in Fairfield Hospital - ward 24. Abi has been visiting but she would probably welcome other visitors if you are passing.

**Joyce Ashworth** is home and doing well following a recent lumpectomy in North Manchester Hospital. She now awaits a biopsy result and follow-on treatment. Joyce would like to thank Abi for her support over recent weeks and everyone for their good wishes. The flowers received from church were beautiful, lasted over 2 weeks and were very much enjoyed.

We were all sorry to learn that **Stuart Watson** has been diagnosed with a recurrence of the mouth cancer which was operated on some years ago. He is currently awaiting scans and a treatment plan. We all wish you well Stuart and hope that further treatment will be entirely successful.

Many will remember **Arnold Ashworth**, who for many years did sterling stage work for our Dramatic Society. Arnold is now in his mid-90s and unfortunately whilst in Rochdale last week had a bad fall, shattering his hip in two places. He is currently in hospital and, being a "determined character" we sincerely hope he will respond well and make a good recovery.

## DELEGATE FOR GA MEETINGS

Each year, in addition to Ministers, our churches can send a delegate(s) to the Annual Denominational Meetings known as the GA Meetings. Church will pay attendance fee and travel expenses. This year the meetings will be held in Daventry, near Northampton. If anyone is interested in undertaking this role please speak soon with Abi, Helen or Joyce about what is entailed. Bookings have just opened and will close on 7 March.

This is an interesting way of meeting with other Unitarians from all over the country and abroad - do consider it!

*Important  
DATE!*

## WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2024

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	07 Jan	11 Feb	17 Mar	21 Apr	26 May	30 Jun	4 Aug	8 Sep	13 Oct	17 Nov	22 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	14 Jan	18 Feb	24 Mar	28 Apr	2 Jun	7 Jul	11 Aug	15 Sep	20 Oct	24 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	21 Jan	25 Feb	31 Mar	5 May	9 Jun	14 Jul	18 Aug	22 Sep	27 Oct	1 Dec	29 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	28 Jan	3 Mar	7 Apr	12 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	25 Aug	29 Sep	3 Nov	8 Dec	
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	4 Feb	10 Mar	14 Apr	19 May	23 Jun	28 Jul	1 Sep	6 Oct	10 Nov	15 Dec	

## BOOK CIRCLE



For our February meeting we will be reading *The Long Journey Home* by Cecily Blench. It's 1941 and Kate is living in Rangoon, Burma, a world away from her traditional English upbringing. When she meets Edwin, a young teacher from London, she senses that he too is looking for a place to call home, and soon a friendship develops between them. As their bond grows, Kate begins to learn of the secrets in Edwin's past and the tragic events that brought them both to Burma. But war is coming and, when the Japanese forces invade, Kate and Edwin are forced to flee, along with thousands of others. They begin a perilous journey to India but soon become separated. As Kate continues on alone, she can't get this troubled young man out of her head. With the fallout of war all around them, in a place far from home, will Kate and Edwin survive?



## FILM NIGHT



*Whisky Galore!* is a 2016 British film, a remake of the 1949 Ealing Comedy of the same name, itself based on the novel by Compton Mackenzie. It's the story of the inhabitants of the isolated Scottish island of Toiday, in the Outer Hebrides, where gloom sets in as their wartime rationing of whisky runs out. When cargo ship the SS Cabinet Minister runs aground the shrewd islanders run rings around the buffoonish English Home Guard commander Captain Waggett and conspire to hide away cases of the precious amber nectar.

I'm sure you'll enjoy this feel good comedy and as usual there will be ice creams at the interval and a tasty pie and pea supper – all for £7.00 in aid of Springhill Hospice. Please add your menu choice to the list on the notice board and bring a friend.

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

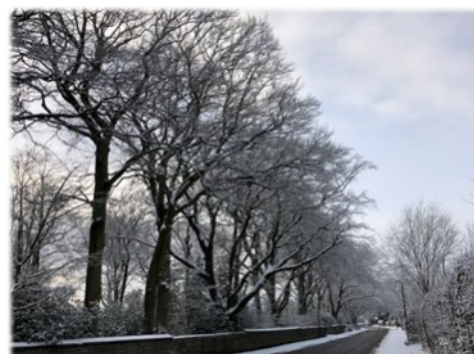


Dear friends,

I think it safe to say that whether we got there on our own or not, January certainly offered the prompt to pause. There's nothing like a little snow to make us do that, or a drop in temperature for that matter, as we snuggle down in the safety and warmth of our homes. Whether we love the snow and cold, or not, it certainly brings with it plenty that is of benefit. Didn't we need to slow down after all the busyness of the Christmas season? Didn't we need the temperature to drop, to counter the warmer air that contributes to the thriving of viruses and the like? Didn't we need the external world to quieten just a little, to surrender to the muffling cloak of whiteness? Did something catch hold of us inside, some beauty, experienced afresh through a different lens? Even the inconvenient has something worth noticing. I hope you found some benefit in the pause of last month.



The gentler pace offered me the time to reflect on the past year, to recognise how each year has



brought a gradual unfolding. How we've come together to offer one another something more of ourselves, to give of ourselves even when we've not felt at our best (and I include myself here too), and that has been returned to us through the support of others. And we can be very grateful for it all; all of it forming the ebb and flow of life, all of it inviting change and evolution. If I were pressed to answer the question 'What's the meaning of life?' I would simply say, "It is to keep on evolving." ... and may we do so gently, with grace and humility, throughout all our days.

Whatever that evolving might look like for us individually, my hope is that we keep step with one another as we dance the dance of co-creation, in the flow of our living.

With my love, Abi xx

# REGULAR BOOKINGS

Day	EVENT
Mon	■ 09.30-2.30pm Autism Awareness—Blue Rm
	■ 12.30-2.30pm Prima Dance—Main Hall
Tues	■ 09.30-2.30pm Teaching Assist —Silver Rm
	■ 1.00-3.00pm Prima Dance—Main Hall
	■ 1.00-3.00pm Norden Cards— Blue Room
	■ 4.30-6.00pm Carers' Choir—Blue Room
	■ 7.00-9.00pm Central Bridge—Blue Room
Wed	■ 7.30-9.30pm Photographic—Blue Room
	■ 7.30-9.30pm Philatelic Group—Green Room
Thur	■ 11.00am 12.00pm YT Zumba—Main Hall
	■ 09.30-2.30pm Hairdressing —Blue Rm
	■ 08.00pm Badminton — Main Hall
Sun	■ 10.30am 12.00pm Sunday Worship in Hall
For full booking details please contact <a href="mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com">rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com</a> or leave a message on 01706 648461	

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

Rochdale Unitarian Church recognises its responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and children. Our Church believes in the upholding and support of the rights and personal dignity of every adult and child, and will work to ensure that all our policies and procedures reflect this, including in any such appointment and selection of persons who work on the Church's behalf.

Rochdale Unitarian Church is committed to ensure that every adult and child feels valued, safe and happy and will work to make sure that all feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm. We will report any abuse we discover or suspect.



### Messenger by Email?

FREE! [rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com](mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com)



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